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look upon it as a new original, and then to copy it by daylight in the usual manner.

As regards my observations of this eclipse I refer to my article on the subject published in No. 2846 of the "*Astronomische Nachrichten.*" I observed with the six-inch STEINHEIL Refractor of the Prague Observatory, with a power of sixty diameters, and made my picture at 11^h 18^m Prague mean time. At this hour the rim of the umbra of the earth's shadow passed through the centre of *Mare Nectaris*, through *Mare Tranquillitatis* and east of *Mare Crisium* as far as *Mare Humboldtianum.* Towards the bright portion of the moon the grayish black shading of the umbra assumed a smoky brown hue, in consequence of the penumbra of the earth; whereas towards the eclipsed portion, south of *Tycho* and north of *Lacus Mortis* it changed to a bright blue tint, and still farther towards the northeast it turned to a most beautiful red, which may be described as being a subdued mixture of *rouge de saturne* and *carmine;* it exhibited almost all the detail of the lunar landscape, together with numerous bright objects. This red coloring was particularly beautiful over *Mare Imbrium*, *Plato*, *Sinus Iridum*, *Copernicus*, *Kepler* and *Aristarchus*, and extended in an easterly direction beyond *Gassendi;* while westerly from this crater *Mare Nubium* and *Mare Humorum* assumed a sombre black-brown aspect. The crater *Aristarchus* was as conspicuous among all other objects during the eclipse as it is when the moon is fully illuminated, owing to its remarkable brightness. In consequence of the technical difficulties which are encountered in the process of printing in colors, the relative values of the colors as well as the gradual decrease of the line of the shadow of the earth are not presented in the accompanying picture as correctly as might have been desired. On the whole, however, this reproduction may be called a satisfactory one.

PRAGUE, November 10th, 1891.

DISCOVERY OF A NEW CRATER ON THE MOON.

BY PROFESSOR WEINEK AT PRAGUE.

[Abstract by Professor HOLDEN.]

In the *Naturwissenschaftliche Wochenschrift* of February 14, 1892, Professor WEINEK gives an account of a new crater discovered by him on the moon with the 6-inch telescope of the Observatory of Prague, on April 1, 1890. Its situation is

East Longitude —49°.2
South Latitude —12°.6

Its interior diameter is about 1800 meters or 1 nautical mile (1″).

This object has been verified by T. GWYN ELGER, esq. (see the *Observatory*, February, 1892, p. 113), and its position and surroundings sketched by Professor HOLDEN with the 12-inch telescope at Mt. Hamilton. It is somewhat remarkable that SCHMIDT's great lunar map does not show this formation.

SIRIUS.

BY ANDREW GRIEG, TAYPORT, SCOTLAND.

This is the most brilliant star in the heavens, and is sometimes called the leader of the host of heaven. It lies under the beautiful constellation of *Orion*, and a little to the left-hand. Its splendor is so great that it has been perceived at mid-day with a telescope of half-inch aperture, and it has even been seen with the naked eye in broad sunshine. It is one of the stars whose parallax is known, and consequently its distance. The recent determination of its parallax by Dr. GILL, Royal Astronomer at Cape of Good Hope, shows *Sirius* to be much nearer than it was formerly believed to be. Its distance is equal to about nine light-years. Dr. HUGGINS, the eminent Spectroscopist and President of the British Association, tells us that the nearest star is so far off, that if it were approaching us at the rate of one hundred miles per second, a whole century of such rapid approach would not do more than increase its brightness by the one-fortieth part. Photometric observations combined with its ascertained parallax show that *Sirius* emits from forty to sixty times the light of our sun.

The old astronomical methods cannot tell us if the stars are coming directly towards us, or going directly from us. The spectroscope here comes to our aid, and enables us to find the motion of a star in the light of sight. It can measure the speed of approach or of recession of a heavenly body with very great accuracy—probably to about a mile per second. The early spec-